

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 ACDA-12
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03 H-01 AID-05 TRSE-00
OMB-01 EB-08 MCE-00 NEAE-00 A-01 HA-05 /084 W
-----018663 301402Z /50

P 301158Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 584
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
CHUSMTM DHAHRAN
USMTM RIYADH
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
SECDEF WASHDC

S E C R E T SANA 4294

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS:, MASS, SA, YE, US
SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR NORTH YEMEN: FOLLOW UP TO SIKES

REF: STATE 215076 DTG 240038Z AUG 78

1. WITH GRIP OF RAMADAN TIGHTENING ON YAR, IT HAS BEEN IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO SEE PRESIDENT TO CARRY OUT INSTRUCTIONS IN STATE REFTEL. REGRET THAT I COULD NOT GET HIS REACTIONS PRIOR TO YESTERDAY'S NSC MEETING AS REQUESTED IN TELECON FROM NEA/ARP.
2. GIVEN MY DEPARTURE ON LEAVE TOMORROW, I HAVE FORWARDED LETTER TO PRESIDENT WHICH COPIED BELOW.
3. IN TELECON WITH ARP I QUESTIONED WHETHER OR NOT IS WAS PRUDENT AT THIS TIME TO TELL ALI ABDALLAH SALIH THAT USG "NOT PREPARED OR ABLE TO MAKE ANY COMMITMENTS ON SPECIFIC TYPES OR NUMBERS" OF EQUIPMENT. STATEMENT SEEMED TO PREJUDGE WHAT WE IN SANA UNDERSTOOD TO BE
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SUBJECT OF NSC MEETING. IT SEEMED PREJUDGE POSSIBLE RESPONSES TO LETTER OF KING KHALID. WE ALSO QUESTIONED WHETHER SUCH A FLAT REJECTION OF YEMEN INTERESTS SHOULD BE DELIVERED IN SANA BEFORE BEING DISCUSSED FURTHER IN RIYADH. FINALLY, WE POINTED OUT LOCAL LEVEL THESE WORDS WOULD BE READ AS REJECTION AND WOULD CERTAINLY SHATTER FRAMEWORK OF GOOD WILL WHICH YEMENIS HAD SOUTH TO RE-ESTABLISH THROUGH VISIT OF

CONGRESSMAN SIKES.

4. FOR THESE REASONS, LETTER WHICH DRAFTED TO SALIH
OMITS THAT PARTICULAR SENTIENCE.

5. "DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

6. "AS I WILL BE AWAY IN LONDON OVER THE COMING HOLIDAYS,
I WANT TO EXPRESS IN ADVANCE MY WARMEST GREETINGS AND
BEST WISHES FOR YOU AND FOR THE YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC IN THE
YEAR TO COME. I SOUGHT TO SEE YOU BEFORE I LEFT IN ORDER
TO CONVEY TO YOU, ONCE AGAIN, MY GOVERNMENT'S DESIRE
TO DEVELOP A CONTINUING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE YEMEN ARAB
REPUBLIC IN ASSISTING ITS DEFENSE. WE RECOGNIZE THAT
THERE ARE IMMEDIATE CONCERNS TO THE YEMENI GOVERNMENT
--BOTH MILITARY AND POLITICAL--THAT SHOULD BE MET.

7. "TOWARD THIS END WE ARE PREPARED TO AIRLIFT TO SANA,
BEGINNING IN EARLY SEPTEMBER, MUCH OF THE EQUIPMENT
INCLUDED IN WHAT WE PROPOSED AS A FIRST STEP. ACCOM-
PANYING THIS AIRLIFT WILL BE US PERSONNEL EQUIPPED TO
ASSIST THE YEMENI ARMED FORCES IN QUICKLY AND EFFECTIVELY
LEARNING TO USE SNA MAINTAIN THE EQUIPMENT. WE HOPE
THIS PACKAGE, INCLUDING THE AIRLIFT AND TRAINING ASSISTANCE
AS WELL AS THE EQUIPMENT, WILL BE ACCEPTED AS BOTH A
SYMBOL OF OUR POLITICAL COMMITMENT AND EVIDENCE OF OUR
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CONCERN FOR YEMENI SECURITY..

8. "IF YOU WISH, AND IF WE ARE INFORMED IN THE NEXT FEW

DAYS, WE WILL ATTEMPT TO DELIVER EQUIPMENT AND RELATED
US PERSONNEL BY THE 26TH OF SEPTEMBER. THE US EFFORT
WILL, OF COURSE, NOT BE LIMITED TO THE PREPARATION FOR THE
26TH OF SEPTEMBER. ASSISTANCE AND DELIVERIES WILL
CONTINUE UNTIL ALL THE ITEMS IN THE FIRST PHASE HAVE BEEN
RECEIVED.

9. "AS YOU KNOW, WE ARE REVIEWING WHAT ADDITIONAL ITEMS
MIGHT BEST BE PROVIDED, GIVEN THE THREAT WHICH YEMEN
PERCEIVES AND ITS ABSORPTIVE CAPACITY.

10. "IN CLOSING, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU, ONCE AGAIN
FOR THE WARM WELCOME YOU EXTENDED TO CONGRESSMEN SIKES
AND FLYNT. THEY HAVE BECOME GOOD FRIENDS OF YEMEN AND
TOOK AWAY A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF YOUR NEEDS AND
INTERESTS."
RANSOM

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NNN

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